

12 and 14 under 35 USC 102(b) over Shinosaki, Noristi, Ebara et al. (Ebara) or Yanagihara et al. (Yanagihara). None of the references teach or suggest the process claimed by applicants in independent claim 3.

Contrary to the examiner's assertion on page 3, paragraph 3 of the final rejection, Noristi fails to disclose that, in the first step, a chlorine-free compound of magnesium in an inert solvent is added to the inorganic oxide as a carrier, such mixture is allowed to react and afterwards the reaction mixture is treated with a C1-C8-alcohol. The resulting solid mixture is then halogenated with TiCl_4 (see claim 3). The teaching of Noristi clearly recommends reacting a magnesium halide and not a magnesium alkyl component with TiCl_4 (see column 5, lines 7-12). Applicants' claims embrace magnesium alkyl components (see also claim 6 and page 4, line 44 to page 5, line 12 of the specification).

Similarly to Noristi, Shinosaki also refers to a process for producing the titanium containing solid component by reacting a magnesium halide and not a magnesium alkyl compound with TiCl_4 (see Working Examples 1 to 5, according to which a magnesium halide is reacted with an alcohol). Ebara relates to a process for producing a titanium containing solid component in which a magnesium halide instead of a magnesium alkyl is used (see Example 1, page 14, lines 1 to 20). Yanagihara is also remote from the claimed invention because Yanagihara fails to teach that the titanium containing solid component should contain an inorganic oxide as a carrier (see page 5, line 16 to page 8, line 30, in conjunction with Examples 1-7).

For the foregoing reasons as well as those set forth in applicants' amendment filed February 29, 2000, applicants submit that the claims are now in condition for allowance, and such action is

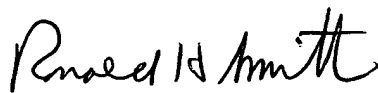
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respectfully solicited.

Please find attached a check for \$390.00 for the two month extension of time fee.

Please charge any fees due in connection with the filing of this paper, including Extension of time fees, to Deposit Account No. 11-0345. Please credit any excess fees to such deposit account.

Respectfully submitted,
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